

# ♦The Lamoine Quarterly♦

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## Voters Defeat Proposed Gravel Ordinance

*Setback proposal leads to sound defeat*

(Lamoine) - Voters in Lamoine turned out in relatively high numbers on November 3rd—the highest percentage in Hancock County. The attraction—a proposed new gravel ordinance. The outcome—an overwhelming “No”. When the votes were counted, 425 people voted against the measure, while 185 cast votes supporting a major revision to the ordinance that regulates gravel mining in town. As a result, an ordinance passed in 2013 and slightly amended in 2014 remains in place.

The public hearing on the proposed new ordinance turned out to be a civilized discussion about both the current and defeated rules. The proposed ordinance would have tightened restoration provisions in that proposed expansions of working pit areas would require restoration of a portion of the previously worked area, depending on the size of the pit. Any new operations would have still been subject to

the 100-foot setback.

A group calling itself Friends of Lamoine produced flyers and signs opposing the proposed ordinance, and the reduced setback proposal appeared to be the major reason for opposition. No organized groups formed to campaign in favor of passage.

The question remains—what next for the gravel ordinance. Planning Board Chair John Holt said there were several provisions in the proposed ordinance change that made significant improvements, and the Planning Board is reviewing those and may offer a proposal to the Board of Selectmen in the coming year for some ordinance changes. Additionally, Selectboard Chair Gary McFarland has asked to discuss a possible set of amendments regarding setbacks, and whether there is time to offer those at the annual town meeting in March.

## Annual Town Meeting set for March 8&9, 2016

(Lamoine) - Keeping with the traditional early March town meeting dates, the Board of Selectmen has set Tuesday, March 8, 2016 as the annual Municipal Election Date. Voters will select two Selectmen, two School Committee Members, and a Tax Assessor at the polls. An amendment to the Donation Review Ordinance may also be on the ballot.

Nomination papers are currently available for all five positions, and the folks who currently hold the seats have all requested petitions to be placed on the ballot for re-election. They include Selectmen Bernie Johnson and Nathan Mason, School Committee members Bob Pulver and Brett Jones, and Assessor Jane Fowler. The petitions must be turned in by Monday, January 25, 2015 at noon in order for a candidate's name to appear on the annual town meeting ballot.

The possible amendment to the Donation Review Ordinance came as a recommendation from the Budget Committee and would allow the Committee to increase its funding recommendation level to \$700. That is an increase of \$100 from the current ordinance level. The Board of Selectmen will decide whether that amendment will appear on the town meeting warrant sometime in January.

The annual open town meeting will take place at the Lamoine Consolidated School gym the following night beginning at 6:00 PM. The meeting will set the annual municipal budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2016 and ends June 30, 2017. Additionally, voters may be asked whether to approve ordinance changes and to accept a deed clarifying the boundary of a piece of town owned land along Blunt's Pond.

over, singeing his hair. He quickly closed the door, and called for help.

Firefighters never had to use any water—the fire stopped spreading when Meyer closed the door. They did tear down some wall board and ceiling to make sure the flame spread was stopped. Items in the swap shop were not damaged, but the office was a total loss. The Town is covered by Maine Municipal Association Risk Management, which has paid all but the \$1,000 deductible of the more than \$3,750 in repairs. Facilities Maintenance director Rick Gallegos coordinated the repairs, performing much of the office rebuild himself. The repairs were completed in late November. An electrical cord/adaptor caused the fire.

## Fire Destroys Needles Eye Road Home

(Lamoine) - A fire of unknown origin destroyed a farmhouse and pickup truck at 137 Needles Eye Road on December 30, 2015. Firefighters from Lamoine, Hancock, Ellsworth and Trenton responded to the scene. The first arriving firefighters reported the house and a propane tank fully ablaze with the building starting to collapse. Homeowner Jesse Stetler and his dog were not home when the fire broke out. The Hancock County Sheriff's Office was able to reach Mr. Stetler who was visiting a friend when the fire broke out. He had his dog with him and a cat was not inside the burning building. Mr. Stetler has insurance. The State Fire Marshal's Office sent an investigator to the scene the next morning to look over the rubble in the search for a cause.



## Fire Damages Transfer Station Office



*The burn pattern points to the origin of October's fire inside the facility manager's office at the Lamoine Transfer station—an outlet behind the chair used inside the office. No one was injured in the blaze.*

(Lamoine) - If there is ever a good time for a building to catch fire, an hour before the annual fire department supper might be one. A lot of firefighters were at the fire station getting ready to get the annual clam chowder dinner rolling when the 9-1-1 call came in from the Lamoine Transfer Station that it was on fire. Within 4-minutes four of the five trucks inside the station were on

scene with approximately 20-firefighters ready to do battle. Smoke was emanating from the building where the facility manager's office was located.

Manager Chris Meyer discovered his office was on fire when he opened the door after checking users on the other side of the transfer station. That introduced oxygen to the hot office which flashed



## “Cheese House Light” Functioning

(Trenton) - A new traffic light at the intersection of Route 3 and 204 in Trenton is finally up and running after construction crews rebuilt the intersection. The early reviews from the Lamoine side give it a thumbs up, though heavy summer traffic has yet to pass the intersection.

The Town of Lamoine still awaits the first power company bill for the new lights, as Selectmen agreed more than a year ago to pay for maintenance and electricity for the lights. When the power was first hooked up in November, though, the lights did not cycle as planned, and flashed yellow on Route 3 and red on Jordan River Road. A faulty electrical module was blamed for the malfunction and has since been replaced. Lane Construction dropped off the keys to the control panel at the Lamoine Town Office in early December, with quick instructions on how to reset the light system in the event of a failure.



*Emera Maine crews make the final power hookup to the new lights.*

Some residents have suggested that the lights ought to flash during the overnights and in the winter. The Maine DOT has told the town the lights will cycle around the clock, year round. A camera system that automatically detects traffic at the intersection corners triggers the light change, so the wait for turning traffic is minimal.

Lamoine requested the traffic light many years ago because of the great difficulty in the summer for folks to turn left from Route 204 onto Route 3 during the heavy traffic months.

## Town Hall FAX Number Changes

(Lamoine) - Efficiency has caught up with the dedicated line that the town hall used for its fax machine. That means there will be a new fax number for the town, and a relatively minor phone line expense the town will have to pick up. The new fax number is: **664-2755**.

The old number was installed many years ago by the Secretary of State's Office for use with the Assisted Voting System (AVS) which utilized a telephone and a fax machine for voters with disabilities to cast a ballot privately. In the roughly 10-years the system was in place, only one or two people actually used the system in Lamoine. The town office kept the fax machine hooked up to the line on a full time basis and utilized the number assigned as the incoming fax line. Long distance outgoing faxes required that the regular town office line be used.

Apparently, the Elections Division plans to change the AVS system and has arranged to have all the lines installed at various town offices deactivated. This should save the state a large amount of money. The town attempted to retain the number that had been assigned, but red tape at the state level made a swift number assignment change impossible. Fairpoint installed the new number in late December.

## 2016/17 Municipal Budget Nearly Set

(Lamoine) - If property taxes increase in July 2016, the town's municipal budget will not shoulder significant blame. Lamoine's Selectmen and Budget Committee have crafted a proposed budget for town meeting that will require a less than one-percent tax commitment increase. That's not to say the municipal spending is going to remain steady if town meeting voters approve the budget as likely to be recommended in March. Increased income and fund use will help with proposed increases. The Budget Committee was due to meet on January 5 to pass along its final recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.

The proposed budget will see a significant jump in the administration line to fund the newly created Facilities Maintenance position. It is the first change in municipal personnel funding in

many years. It accounts for roughly half of the proposed 10% increase in administration funding. Other contracted personnel increases, benefit costs, and an increase in the legal costs line account for the rest of the increase.

The other sizable increase is for road maintenance, driven by a proposed two year extension of the snow removal contract. But, a reduced number of planned paving miles will actually result in a lower overall road budget. The plan is to pave a portion of the MacQuinn Road and the Raccoon Cove Road during 2016/17.

Proposed revenue increases include more excise tax (the economy has picked up), use of \$10,000 from the general fund balance, and \$15,000 from the Hodgkins Trust Fund will offset most of the proposed spending increases. Voters have the final say on the budget in March.

## Different Moderator For Annual Meeting

(Lamoine) - For decades, former educator and school superintendent Harvey Kelley has moderated Lamoine's annual Town Meeting. The 2016 meeting will see a new face lead the voting on the 30-some articles placed before voters. Mr. Kelley, a Sullivan resident, is unavailable for the town meeting dates this coming year.

Maurice "Joe" Marshall who lives in Lamoine has been contacted and is willing to moderate the annual election and meeting on March 8th and 9th. Marshall is no stranger to town meeting moderation - he has moderated the Southwest Harbor annual town meeting for several years. If his name sounds familiar, you might recall that he ran as for Lamoine's legislative seat in the 2014 statewide election. He has also been a radio announcer and performer for many years.

## Selectmen Explore Town Office Options

(Lamoine) - Few folks would disagree that the current Town Hall is a pretty cool old building. It started as the North Lamoine Schoolhouse back in the late 1800s and sometime after the school closed it was converted to the town office building. It underwent a major renovation in the late 1980's/early 1990's, and a new floor was put down and the offices reconfigured in 2008. There are some major drawbacks, though. The foundation is made of granite blocks, it leaks, and it has a dirt floor,

highly unsuitable for any type of storage. The amount of parking available is also very limited.

The Board of Selectmen are exploring an option to put a full foundation under the building which would involve purchasing land behind the current facility, digging the foundation, and moving the current building onto that. Preliminary discussion has begun—the plan is likely several years away, but the

landowners to the east of the town hall and along Route 204 (Pinkhams Flats) have indicated a willingness to deed some property to the town. If the town hall were moved back, that would allow for better handicapped access, a tight basement (and that would keep varmints out), and many more safe parking spaces. Money is proposed to be set aside stating in the 2016/17 budget year to begin work on the project.



## Regional Shellfish Withdrawal Threat Prompts Recommendations, Fee Increase

(Lamoine) - A petition that reportedly circulated around town to seek a town meeting vote on withdrawing from the Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfishing Agreement has never materialized at the town hall. Some commercial diggers say Lamoine has the most productive clam flats, and because of that the most number of harvesters who allegedly violate the rules that cover seven towns.

At issue is enforcement—the district covers quite a wide expanse with just one Shellfish Warden. Some of the commercial diggers in Lamoine expressed to the Municipal Joint Board that governs the regional ordinance that the warden was not aggressive enough in enforcing the licensing and closure rules in town.

Two groups help with administration of the clamming rules—the Joint Board and an informal Shellfish Conservation Group which meets monthly during the winter. The grievances aired out before the latter group resulted in several proposed improvements, including a better cell phone for the shellfish warden, encouragement to contact a supervisor if the warden is unavailable, prioritizing patrol areas during prime harvesting times, and checking well known boat launch areas for licensed clam harvesters.

In addition to the enforcement strategies, the Joint Board has also voted to increase all recreation license fees from \$5.00 to \$20.00 each beginning in July.

## Plowed Up Loam Leads to Violation Notice

(Lamoine) - Code Enforcement Officer Millard Billings drives by the Mud Creek Road every time he comes to work at the town office from his Franklin home. The mound of dirt piled up in one of the large fields, the bulldozer, and excavator were



pretty apparent. So was the alleged violation of the town’s Site Plan Review and Gravel Ordinances which require permits to strip more than 10,000 square feet of vegetation without a permit. The landowner had agreed with an Ellsworth based general contractor to sell topsoil from her land, but neither party obtained the required local permits first. CEO Billings issued a notice of violation in October, ordering work to cease and the topsoil be returned and seeded. Contractor RF Jordan, Inc., informed the town it had

spread out some of the material, but had to remove some from the property for a permitted driveway to the wooded area on the lot used for a logging operation.

The Board of Selectmen authorized Billings to offer a consent agreement to close out the case. The property owner and the contractor have yet to respond to the proposed agreement which calls for the area to be seeded, the ditch slopes shaped, and for a proposed fine of \$500 which represents a reduction from the maximum of roughly \$8,000.

## Planning Board January Agenda Full

(Lamoine) - Two proposed commercial buildings and two renewals for gravel removal operations have filled the agenda for the Lamoine Planning Board’s January meeting. The public hearings for all four applications begins at 6:30 PM on Monday, January 4, 2016.

Brett Jones and his wife, Dr. Patricia Wyshak, have applied to build a medical clinic building at a subdivision lot that they own on the corner of Walker Road and Madison Avenue. It’s believed Dr. Wyshak will eventually move her practice to that building from Ellsworth. The application indicates the facility accommodate a relatively small number of patients.

Richard and Steve McMullen, who plow the town and state roads in the winter, have applied for a salt sand storage shed on property they own on Partridge Cove Road. The Planning Board issued a

permit for a similar shed in 2012, but construction never started on the facility as the operation utilizes the town owned salt/sand storage shed. At the time of the original permit issuances, McMullen said the shed was needed in case the company was no longer plowing the town roads and needed to store salt for the state highway plowing jobs. A similar sized shed is proposed in the new permit application.

The Planning Board is also hearing the last of the gravel permit renewals under the ordinance approved in 2013. Doug Gott and Sons has two gravel operations up for consideration—the Smith Pit (behind the Transfer Station), and the B&H Pit (just to the west of the Transfer Station). A third permitted operation that expired in the fall of 2015 in North Lamoine will not be renewed and presumably restored by Gott to meet current ordinance requirements.

## Appeals Board Denies Shoreland Permit Request

(Lamoine) - An Ice House Lane property owner who had obtained a Building and Shoreland Zoning Permit from Lamoine’s Code Enforcement Officer saw the town’s Board of Appeals deny the permit because the new project covers too much of the Shoreland Zone in which their buildings are located.

Jane and William Shubert appealed the permit issuance to their neighbors Frank and Wendy Young in October which would construct a breezeway to connect a garage to the long existing house on the property the Youngs purchased in 2011. The Shuberts claimed that the breezeway would create an area within the 250-foot Shoreland setback on the Young property that exceeded 10% coverage of the lot. Lamoine’s Shoreland Ordinance limits lot coverage in the Shoreland Zone to no greater than 10-percent.

The Appeals Board had Code Enforcement Officer Millard Billings confirm measurements of buildings and driveways on the Young lot with the Shuberts’ surveyor, Stephen Salsbury. Both concluded that the Shoreland coverage maximum was exceeded.

After a lengthy hearing, the Appeals Board ruled that the permit could not be issued for the breezeway. CEO Billings has issued a notice of violation for the Shoreland coverage. To date, there has been no appeal of the ruling from the Lamoine Appeals Board.

## Permits Issued

(Lamoine) - Code Enforcement Officer Millard Billings issued the following permits during the 4th quarter of 2015:

#	Name	Project
39	Fallica, Stephen	Shed
40	Broughman Bldrs	Mfg. Home
41	Cannada, Jeff	Roofed Deck
42	Boynton, Harold	Shed
43	Comolli, Bruce	RV & Shed
45	Evans, Richard	Shed
46	Olencki, Kay	Camper Tlr.
47	Crawford, Cameron	Garage

Permit # 44 was never assigned to any approved application.

## CEO Winter Hours

(Lamoine) - Town Code Enforcement Officer Millard Billings will hold regular office hours on Mondays during the winter months (through March) from Noon to 2:00 PM. Building activity generally is quite minimal during these months. Folks who require CEO or Plumbing Inspections can call the town office at 667-2242 to arrange for an appointment.



## Beavers, Local Roads, Don't Mix Well

(Lamoine) - While the vast majority of the land in Lamoine remains undeveloped and wildlife friendly, the mix of nature and mankind doesn't always mesh so well. Both Needles Eye Road and Pinkhams' Flats have pretty sizable brooks that run underneath, and that has attracted families of beavers to build lodges along the stream. While the lodges are not a particular problem, the dams that the critters build downstream at the road culverts are. The dams back up the water to the lodges, but in heavy rains, the structures cause the water to wash over the tops of the roads, washing out the shoulders on the culvert outlets. That's expensive to repair, and dangerous for the traveling public, because the underside of the road can also wash out.

Game Warden Phil Richter contacted a trapper to "relocate" the beavers on Needles Eye Road in November, and at least one large beaver was removed. The animals are very persistent; neighbors have reported more have returned. The Maine DOT has taken a similar approach to Pinkhams' Flats.



**Water Over the Dam**  
(Above) - Beavers on Needles Eye Road call it home sweet home, a lodge fairly close to a double culvert under the road. The lodge needs water to build up, but as shown (left) when it gets to high, it goes over the road and washes out the shoulders on both sides over the culvers, threatening to collapse the newly paved road.

## State Park Construction Project Finished

(Lamoine) - Recreational boat users and commercial fishermen should find the new launch facility at Lamoine State Park a lot easier to use, now that a new ramp is in place. The \$256,498 project was completed in December, though the bulk of the work was done by mid-November. The new ramp is paved and boats will now be able to be launched on all tides. The previous ramp was not very user friendly at low tide.

The new ramp is 24-feet wide, and a re-designed parking area will make it a lot easier for folks with trailers to park their vehicles while they're using their watercraft. Accessibility for handicapped users was also a project priority, with parking spaces and a toilet facility constructed as part of the project.

In addition to the new paved ramp, a float system will be installed when the park reopens in the spring. The park says they will install nine floats, each 20-feet long, to help people to enter and exit their boats safely.

Maine's Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

has been working on the new boat launching facility and parking area for several years. The town's harbor users, which consist of both recreational boaters and commercial lobstermen, highly encouraged the facility upgrade. The Bureau of Parks and Lands says the facility is open to the entire boating community.

RF Jordan and Sons of Ellsworth submitted the successful bid to complete the project.



Heavy construction equipment and crews pave the new all tides ramp at Lamoine State Park as part of a major reconstruction project along the waterfront at the popular campground and park.

## Town Hopes to Extend Snow Plowing Contract

(Lamoine) - Though Lamoine had no plowable snow to speak of until December 29th, Selectmen were already working to make sure the roads would be plowed for the winters of 2017 and 2018. The current contract with McMullen Landscape and Construction expires in May, but has a provision for a two year extension with written agreement of both parties.

After the 2014/15 winter in which the company was out nearly every day over a 2-month span, owner Richard McMullen has asked for a 10% contract increase because of the seemingly increased plowing need. The Board of Selectmen have tentatively agreed to that, but will re-work a contract clause that provides for additional payment for an inordinate number of plowing events. The current contract calls for payment up to 5% above the contract price in the event that more than 45-plowing/sandings are needed. The proposed extension will increase that number to 54 events (the average of the past two years) before the so-called escalator kicks in. The parties hope to finalize an extension in January.

## Trees Trimmed

(Lamoine) - Folks who traveled on Mill Road and Shore Road in the fall of 2015 probably got used to seeing Greg Gleason and his son-in-law cutting and chipping trees along their route. Gleason was the successful bidder for those two roads, and completed the work in early December.

Trees on both roads had started encroaching into the travel lanes, causing minor damage at times to vehicles traveling too close to the shoulders. In addition to Mill and Shore Roads, Gleason has also trimmed back a portion of Marlboro Beach Road. He also did a major cutback of the seasonal Gully Brook Road last summer. The tree trim budget is proposed to increase next year.



## Cell Tower Lease Extension Requested

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen has received a request from American Tower Corporation to extend the lease of a 40,000 square foot lot off Lamoine Beach Road for another 30-years. The town meeting approved the initial 25-year lease many years ago as Verizon Wireless expressed interest in providing cell phone service to the community. The town currently receives \$1,150 per month in rental payments.

American Tower purchased the contract from Verizon Wireless in 2015

and continues to make the lease payments. The company has sent complex contract language to the town requesting the lease extension, and has offered a \$20,000 signing bonus, along with a rent increase during the contract term.

Selectmen are in the process of reviewing the proposal and believe that any such lease extension will require approval from a Town Meeting. If the offer remains on the table and the request is acceptable, the matter may appear on the March 2016 town meeting warrant.

## State Safety Inspection Conducted

(Lamoine) - The municipal side of the town government awaits the final report and requests for action from the Maine Bureau of Labor Standards (BLS) following a thorough inspection of facilities and operating records in November. The inspector arrived without notice, asking to inspect the Transfer Station, some training and safety records at the town office, and a thorough inspection of records and the facility at the fire station. The same inspector also conducted an inspection at the Lamoine Consolidated School.

The BLS has issued its report for the school and recommended several corrections and proposed a \$700 fine for deficient training records. The report for the other facilities has not yet been issued. Fire Chief George “Skip” Smith was able to provide most of the extensive records sought, though required inspections on the department’s air packs were overdue. Some fire truck driver records also need updating.

## Town Hall Furnace Fails, Replaced

(Lamoine) - In 2014 the town replaced the old oil-fired furnace at the Town Hall with a brand new, propane, forced hot air system. There were a few hiccups with the blower system with the new furnace, and the company that installed the system faithfully replaced and repaired things as issues cropped up.

Needless to say, the furnace doesn’t turn on very often in the summer time, but when the weather turned cold in November, something wasn’t right—the blower started making an odd sound, and

completely failed again, leaving the offices bitter cold. Osborne’s Plumbing and Heating which installed the original furnace decided enough was enough with the 2014 installation and completely replaced the furnace with a similar model in November. The new furnace seems to be working much better, though there was one glitch immediately following a propane delivery in December. The Board of Selectmen sent a letter to Osborne’s thanking them for their diligence in responding to the furnace needs.

## Several Join Fire Department

(Lamoine) - Bucking a trend that has put the state in what some fire chiefs are calling a crisis, Lamoine’s fire department roster has actually grown a bit in recent months with the addition of at least four new members. Both Rick Martens of Shore Road and Phil Richter of Walker Road will be attending the Hancock County Firefighting Academy over the winter—devoting every other weekend to learning firefighting skills. Mr. Martens works for the James W. Sewall Company in Old Town; Richter is the game warden in Lamoine.

Also joining the department is Robert Cooper, a recent graduate of Ellsworth High School and Hancock County Technical Center and Eric Davidson who has recently moved with his wife to Lamoine from the Baltimore area and resides on Bay Road. Hayden Sattler has also begun to serve as a Junior firefighter (his grandfather Carleton Brodie is a long time member), as has Billy Dandurand (dad Nate Dandurand is a firefighter).

The Fire Department meets on Wednesday evenings at 7PM.

## Fire Calls Mostly Out of Town



### *Traffic Control Needed?*

*Lamoine Fire was briefly called to help as a new manufactured home tied up traffic by the town office during delivery in early October*

## Dog Licenses Overdue, Bite Investigated

(Lamoine) - If you have a dog, state law requires that it be registered with the town clerk annually. It’s important for a couple of reasons. The license helps the Animal Control Officer match up found dogs with owners quickly, and it also gives the town a record of whether a dog that is involved in any sort of injury incident is vaccinated for rabies.

The latter issue came to light this fall when a Danforth woman reported one of her children was bitten at a Mud Creek Road home. ACO Shannon Byers investigated and found that none of the dogs in the home had a current registration on file at the town office, and that rabies vaccination record for the dog in question had expired according to the last information on file. Byers issued a summons to the dog owner for failing to register the dogs as required, and a District Court judge imposed a fine. The injured child is believed to be doing OK.

(Lamoine) - With the exception of the two in-town structure fires (see page 1) and a couple of storm related electrical lines down calls, the Lamoine Fire Department mostly provided mutual aid in the last quarter of 2015. The biggest out of town call came at 10:00 at night on November 14 in Trenton when a mussel processing plant that was nearly completed with construction exploded and caught fire. Lamoine provided manpower to help douse the flames, filled tanker trucks from numerous other communities, and sent its two tanker trucks to the scene to shuttle more than 50,000 gallons of water. Several members did not return home until 5AM the following morning. The State Fire Marshal’s office was not able to determine the fire’s cause. Firefighters living across from the scene on the Jordan River reported hearing a loud explosion just before the fire pagers were activated.

Firefighters responded to a pair of reports during a wind and rain storm on October 29th when tree limbs brought down wires on private roads. On such calls, the fire department can only respond to confirm that a wire is down, and possibly block the road if the public may be in danger of contacting live wires. Firefighters also responded three times to Ellsworth for station coverage, helped with a furnace malfunction in Hancock and blocked Route 1 in Hancock during a serious motor vehicle accident.

## Suitors Seek Town's Trash in 2018

(Lamoine) - One of the challenges of municipal government is keeping a necessary program user friendly. Trash is one of those necessary programs. For the typical citizen, it is pretty easy—you bring your bags of trash to the transfer station when it's open and put them in a dumpster after you separate out your recycling materials into the right containers. Then it magically disappears.

That magic is expensive, and there are lots of acronyms that go with it. We're not going to talk about recycling—that's a world unto itself. This is about the stuff you normally throw away. It's got an acronym—MSW (Municipal Solid Waste).

Lamoine belongs to the Municipal Review Committee (MRC). It ships the waste to the Penobscot Energy Recovery Company (PERC) incinerator in Orrington where it's burned to produce very expensive electricity. The town has a contract that expires in March of 2018, just like every other town that ships its MSW to PERC.

We mentioned the electricity is expensive to make. It's also subsidized for sale to the electric grid, but that subsidy to PERC/MRC ends when the contracts are up. Here's where the competition for the trash heats up.

The MRC members get a payment from the profits from PERC, mostly from

electricity sales. It lowers the roughly \$77/ton bill the towns pay to about \$50/ton. When that subsidy for electricity ends, the MRC expects the plant will need a major overhaul and the disposal cost will skyrocket. PERC doesn't necessarily agree with that assessment. To stay viable, PERC needs to have a trash stream, both to make the electricity and to have the folks sending the trash pay a "tipping fee" for burning it.

The MRC instead is putting its money on a new plant to be built in Hampden that will convert trash into fuel. The MRC wants Lamoine's trash just as badly as the PERC plant. The magic date of March 31, 2018 isn't all that far away any more.

Lamoine is a pretty small player in both organizations. We generate about 550-tons of trash a year. The new MRC facility requires commitments to send about 170,000 tons of trash to get built. They're promising a fairly low (but higher than now) per ton price. The folks who own PERC have offered their own contract—the price is higher than MRC and the current price after the rebate.

Selectmen will listen to representatives of MRC at their meeting on January 14th. Any decision about where to contract for trash disposal will have to go before the town meeting.

## Busy Fall For Comprehensive Planners

*By Fred Stocking*

The Lamoine Comprehensive Plan Committee has been meeting with Town committees, Boards and Commissions and other community groups throughout the fall months. Each meeting has been designed to find out what challenges and opportunities the various groups see coming during the next 10 to 15 years, which is the planning period for the next town Comprehensive Plan. Through the end of 2015, the LCPC has met with 13 groups and over 65 people who are all working for and/or thinking about our community.

The LCPC also finished its review of a survey of town opinion on the basics of life in Lamoine. The survey, filled out by about one-quarter of Lamoine households over the internet or on paper, asked many questions asked in previous surveys in 1993 and 2005, and the responses this year were consistent with past results.

Respondents reported that they felt safe in their homes, wished the roads were

in better repair and were attracted to Lamoine by the beauty of the woods and sea and the small town atmosphere. Emerging concerns are services to an aging population and the need to attract families with children.

The Comprehensive Plan Committee will discuss results at a meeting at the Lamoine Consolidated School on February 6<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 12. All townsfolk are invited to come share their ideas about coming challenges and hopes for the future of the Town.

The LCPC has been getting a lot of information and good ideas. We now need to review what we have learned and begin to put together a plan which meets state standards. That is the plan for the spring, followed by further community meetings, perhaps focusing on specific issues, and probably a second survey exploring specific proposals for the next Comprehensive Plan.

We expect to be able to put together a plan for town review sometime in 2017.

## No Metal Pile

(Lamoine) - A small, informal area where folks had placed metal goods for recycling at the transfer station has been removed for the winter. The area was not part of the overall transfer station plan; the concrete pad where the recycling containers sit was originally used for metal collection. Local scrap hauler Russell Boynton Jr. has picked up what was left behind. Selectmen will likely discuss the issue once winter weather exits.

## Windows 10-Not Yet

(Lamoine) - The town's technology committee has recommended against upgrading the various town computers from Windows 7 to the new Windows 10 operating system. Many older programs do not function well with the new operating system. The town has purchased an upgraded database program to be prepared for the eventual upgrade.

## State Says Lamoine More Valuable

(Lamoine) - Each year the State's Property Tax division looks at the town's tax records and the actual value of real estate sales to determine what the town's overall value likely is. In 2010 the town reached a high of just over \$283 million. Then it started falling—corresponding to the housing bust, and it continue to fall through the 2015 valuation when the state set the town's value at \$255 million.

After latest inspection of the town assessing records and the property sales prices, the value for Lamoine has risen for the first time in the past 6-years. The new state valuation for 2016 is \$263 million. The state valuation is actually a pretty important number. Education subsidy, state revenue sharing and the county tax bill share are all based on that total valuation.

## No Revaluation Yet

(Lamoine) - The town's Board of Assessors has recommended waiting at least another year before doing a town-wide revaluation. While the town's total value (\$259 million) is pretty close to the state's value (see above), there are some trends the assessors wish to look at. Sales of shorefront property may not be as close to the assessed value as inland areas.

Instead of a full revaluation that's expected to cost more than \$100,000, the Assessors have proposed adding \$500 each to their salaries to conduct an internal study of sale prices to assessed value to see if something should be done and when. The last full scale revaluation was conducted in 1993. That was updated with what's called a factored revaluation in 2005 which increased land and building values. The assessors' proposal is expected to be included in the 2016/17 budget recommendations.

## Property Eyed For School Use

(Lamoine) - The town's school committee is eyeing a home, garage and small parcel of land next to the current Lamoine Consolidated School lot on Lamoine Beach Road. The property may be for sale in the near future, and the School Committee and Board of Selectmen authorized Superintendent of Schools Katrina Kane to begin negotiations with current property owner Donald Clark.

Any proposed purchase would have to go before town meeting for approval. Initial discussions about the use for the property included possibly razing the residence, but keeping the garage for storage and possible school bus parking. The land, which borders the already overcrowded school parking lot, could be used for additional parking, making larger town functions safer for those attending.



## Volunteers Step Forward for Committees, Boards

(Lamoine) - Turnover on town government boards is inevitable, and it often presents a challenge to find people willing to volunteer to serve in key positions. The Board of Selectmen feels fortunate that several people have offered to serve in a variety of capacities. Selectmen appointed the following during the final quarter of 2015:

- ♦ Cathy Goebel, Parks Commission
- ♦ Maggie Andros, Parks Commission
- ♦ Michael Jordan, Comprehensive Planning Alternate
- ♦ Jeff Cosulich, Conservation Commission Alternate
- ♦ Ruth Wilbur, Heating Assistance Committee

The Selectmen will invite several volunteers who have completed their board service to a recognition session on January 28, 2016 at the Town Office.

## Robotics Team Succeeds

*By Dawn McPhail, Principal*

Robotics has been a growing activity at Lamoine for several years now. For the second year in a row there has been enough interest to form two teams. However, interest in robotics is not only growing in Lamoine, it is growing all over the state of Maine. For the first time ever, a qualifier competition was necessary to determine eligibility for the state competition in Augusta. When the number of teams registering in the state jumped from 72 to 90, Tom Bickford, the head of Maine Robotics, knew it was time to make a change. Three different qualifier competitions were held to determine which teams would qualify to be one of the 60 teams to attend the state competition in Augusta.

Our two teams headed to Old Town three weeks earlier than expected to compete with other teams for the coveted spots at the state competition. This year's challenge was Trash Trek, and both Lamoine teams really "cleaned up". As a matter of fact, at the qualifier the "Dumpster Divers" team ended up placing 5th on the table event and "Lathingamajiggy" took home the Programming Award, earning both teams a slot at the state competition. In Augusta "Lathingamajiggy" took home the Judges Award and "Dumpster Divers" ended up placing 16th out of 60 teams in the robot challenge. Way to go Lamoine!

## Cable TV Operations Manager Leaves

(Lamoine) - The young man who handled some of the cable TV channel responsibilities for the past three years resigned from his position in the fall. Kendall Davis III started when he was a student in the video production program at

## Arts Group Takes Over Grange

*By Bill Reynolds*

(Lamoine) -Lamoine Community Arts (LCA) has entered a new phase! We've signed a lease on the historic Lamoine/Bayside Grange, the building which we've rented for our productions each spring and fall. LCA has assumed full responsibility for the building's maintenance, while the Grange will continue to hold their regularly scheduled activities in it. It's a win-win situation for both groups!

The building, constructed in 1918, is in need of many upgrades. LCA is undertaking a fundraising effort in order to begin renovations this coming spring. Our initial goal is for \$50,000 to upgrade the electrical system and install insulation to allow year-round use. A long list of subsequent improvements includes interior and exterior painting, kitchen upgrade, and basement lavatory.

If you would like to contribute, please make out a check to Lamoine Community Arts, (with Grange Renovation in the memo line), and mail it to Fred Stocking, LCA Treasurer, 30 Berry Cove Road, Lamoine, ME 04605. All donations are TAX DEDUCTIBLE because LCA is a 501c3 organization. Thank you for any help you can give.

LCA would also welcome the help of volunteers to work with us on implementing ideas for raising money for these renovations. For more information, please contact Carol Korty at 207 667-4441



*Lamoine Community Arts member Carol Korty stands with the fund raising tracking sign at the Lamoine Grange Hall*



*Chad Francis from Atlantic Landscaping and Lamoine's Kasey Jordan, Troop 422. Kasey raised funds for 26 trees to be planted in memory of all of the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, children and adults that lost their life at Sandy Hook Elementary in Connecticut. A final anonymous donation made it possible for all 26 trees planted at Knowlton Park in Ellsworth.*

## Teachers Learn Too

*By Dawn McPhail, Principal*

(Lamoine) - Sometimes teachers are the ones doing the learning. In November, our teachers were extremely fortunate to learn more about Proficiency-Based Education from national presenter Rick Wormelli. Mr. Wormelli was one of the first Nationally Board Certified teachers in the United States. He has taught math, science, English, physical education, health and history and was the recipient of Disney's American Teacher Awards 1996 Outstanding English Teacher of the Nation. His work in both middle school instruction and proficiency-based education is considered by many to be the defining work in these areas. So, when RSU Superintendent Michael Eastman and Curriculum Coordinator Nikki Chan invited both Lamoine Consolidated School and Hancock Grammar School to join them for a full day of professional development with Wormelli, Superintendent Katrina Kane jumped at the opportunity. Not only did teachers appreciate the opportunity to network with their previous RSU 24 colleagues, but teachers and administrators alike reported that it was one of the best professional development activities they had ever attended.

## Returnable Proceeds Recipients

(Lamoine) - The following groups will benefit from the returnables left at the Lamoine Transfer Station for the next 4-months:

- ♦ January 2016— Girl Scout Troop 422
  - ♦ February 2016—Lamoine Community Arts
  - ♦ March 2016—Conservation Cmsn.
  - ♦ April 2016— Lamoine Bayside Grange
- In the previous quarter, the following groups were sent checks:
- ♦ September 2015—East Lamoine Cemetery Association (\$230.75)
  - ♦ October 2015—Lamoine Historical Society (\$261.40)
  - ♦ November 2015—Lamoine Baptist Church (\$204.75)

January 2016 Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Code Enforcement Officer Regular Hours: Mondays, Noon to 2PM (call 667-2242 for appointment)					1—Town Office, Transfer Station Closed	2 - Town Office open 8-12, Transfer Station open 8-5
3	4-6:30 PM Planning Board	5-5:45PM Tech Committee 6:30PM Budget Committee	6-8AM Assessors	7-6:30 PM Comp Plan	8	9
10	11	12-6:30 PM School Committee	13-7PM Conservation Commission	14-7PM Selectmen	15	16
17	18-Town Office Closed	19	20-7PM Shellfish Conservation	21	22	23
24	25-Noon, Nomination Papers Due	26	27	28-7PM Selectmen	29	30-Town Office Open 8-12
31						

February 2016 Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1-7PM Planning Board	2	3-8am Assessors	4-6:30 PM Comp Plan	5	6-Town Office Open 8-12 9am-12-Comp Plan Open Meeting
7	8	9	10-7PM Conservation Commission	11-7PM Selectmen	12	13
14	15-Town Office Closed	16	17-7PM Shellfish Conservation	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25-7PM Selectmen	26	27-Town Office Open 8-12
28	29					

March 2016 Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2—8AM Assessors	3-6:30 PM Comp Planning	4	5-Town Office Open 8-12
6	7-7PM Planning Board	8-8am to 8pm Municipal Election	9-6PM—Town Meeting @ School	10-7PM Selectmen	11	12
13	14	15	16-7PM Shellfish Conservation	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24-7PM Selectmen	25	26-Town Office Open 8-12
27	28	29	30	31		

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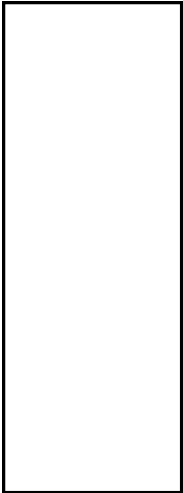
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Grange Renovations

And Much, Much More



Town of Lamoine  
606 Douglas Highway  
Lamoine, ME 04605